Acting Ethically with Intentional Stewardship

Kant believed real ethics comes from **goodwill**—doing the right thing because it's right, not because of what you'll get out of it. That's where his concept of **duty** and the **categorical imperative** come in. Basically, if your action couldn't be a universal rule for everyone, don't do it. That's how moral decision-making stays clean, even when it costs you something.

Now compare that to Matthew 25. In the **Parable of the Talents**, the faithful servants didn't just sit on what they were given—they acted. They took risks, multiplied what they had, and did it out of responsibility, not reward-chasing. The one servant who buried his talent? He played it safe, but he failed his master. R.C. Sproul breaks it down: **stewardship isn't passive**. You're called to use what you've been given—time, skills, resources—for something bigger than you.

In both views, ethics isn't measured by outcome. It's about motive and action. Business leaders today get caught up in results—stock price, growth, and quarterly wins. But as Kant and Scripture show, ethics lives in the *why*, not just the *what*. Doing what's right—especially when it's harder—is the real test.

Take my friend from high school. He found $50 in the hallway. Could've pocketed it. But he didn't. He turned it into the front office because it was the right thing to do. That decision wasn't profitable. It wasn't easy. But it was

moral. And that’s what Kant and Jesus are both getting at—**act out of conviction, not convenience**.